(b) Does not arise.

(c) Police verification is required to comply with certain statutory proisions of the Passports Act which are based on considerations of national sovereignty, integrity and security.

[*Translation*]

Development of Central Security Forces in Naxalite Affected States

1602. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies of Central Security Forces deployed in Madhya Pradesh and other naxalite affected States during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of financial assistance provided by the Union Government to those States during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) There was no deployment of paramilitary forces for anti-naxalite operations in Madhya Pradesh and other Naxalite affected States during the last three years except in Andhra Pradesh where the average deployment was as follows:-

1989 - 7 Coys.

1990 - 8 Coys.

1991 - 25 Coys.

(b) No Financial assistance was provided to any of these States, on this account.

[*English*]

Sunflower Seeds

1603. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of Sun-flower seeds during 1991-92, State-wise;

(b) whether mexican beetle is found to be effective in controlling the parthenium weed, which is devouring sunflower plants; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The rabi/summer sunflower crop is still in the field and it is still somewhat early to arrive at firm estimates of production for 1991-92.

(b) and (c). The Mexican beetle has been found to be an effective biological control agent of parthenium weed under field conditions in Bangalore and surrounding areas. Reports that this beetle devours sunflower plants have been found to be baseless.

Winding up of Trade Mission and Information Centres of Erstwhile USSR in India

1604. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of EXERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trade mission and information centres of erstwhile USSR in India are likely to be wound up ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?